

MBA NEWS



20 West Street, Boston, MA 02111-1204 • communications@massbar.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

March 17, 2014

CONTACT:

Mike Vigneux (617) 338-0675

Jason Scally (617) 338-0682

‘Final Four’ square off in Mass. Bar Association’s Mock Trial Program

Semifinals March 20; State Championship at Faneuil Hall, March 25

BOSTON, Mass. — **Marshfield High School**, **The Winsor School** (Boston), **Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School** (South Hadley) and **Marblehead High School** have advanced to the “Final Four” of the 29th annual High School Mock Trial Program presented by the Massachusetts Bar Association.

The semifinalists will face off in separate trials held simultaneously in Worcester and Boston on March 20, at 1 p.m., with the winners advancing to the state championship in Boston on March 25, which will be held in the historic Great Hall at Faneuil Hall. The semifinal matchups were determined at random:

- Marshfield vs. The Winsor School, Boston (John Joseph Moakley U.S. Courthouse)
- Pioneer Valley vs. Marblehead, Worcester (Worcester Superior Courthouse)

In 2013, the Winsor School defeated Pioneer Valley to win the state championship, its second win since 2010. Pioneer Valley has taken home two of the last three titles, winning in 2011 and 2012. They were also state champions in 2005, finishing 18th in the nation.

Important site restrictions: Media members wishing to attend/cover the Final Four trials on March 20 are required to contact Mike Vigneux at 617-338-0675 or Jason Scally at 617-338-0682 in advance. Please also note the following courthouse restrictions:

Moakley Courthouse (1 Courthouse Way, Boston): Photo IDs required. The court does not allow cameras, pagers, cellular telephones, personal data assistants (PDA’s), laptop computers, tape recorders and other electronic devices. Any such devices must be checked in at security.

Worcester Courthouse (225 Main Street, Worcester): No cell phones are allowed in the courthouse.

Mock Trial Program background

The “Final Four” schools earned their regional titles, quarterfinal and semifinal berths by competing in trials throughout January, February and March. More than 1,500 students at 130 high schools across

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the state participate in the annual program, in which students turn their classrooms into courtrooms to assume the roles of both lawyers and witnesses.

This year's case revolves around whether or not the wing of a stunt plane sheared off due to a design defect or as a result of pilot error. The plaintiff is the child of a stunt pilot who died performing an advanced aerobatic maneuver while practicing for a stunt show at the Devlin County Fair.

The Massachusetts Bar Association's Mock Trial Program, which began in 1985, is unique in that it includes teams from public and private schools, including charter and parochial schools. The Mock Trial Program is administered by the Mass. Bar Association with support from the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Corp. and the Massachusetts Bar Foundation. More than 100 lawyers across the state volunteer as coaches and judges.

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